

# 'FLOATING HOMES' NOW SOLVING HOUSE PROBLEMS

**B**ECAUSE of difficulties in obtaining accommodation ashore, or because of a love of life on the water, a number of people are making a permanent home on house-boats or other craft on the Brisbane River.

A former invasion barge, moored near Breakfast Creek bridge, is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. James White and their son, Gordon, who was in the R.A.A.F.

The family lived at Wacol, but when they sold their home there and found it impossible to obtain accommodation in Brisbane they decided to go "on the river."

They bought the barge, which had formerly been a bachelor's home, and have been living in it for the last six months.

Mrs. White has made curtains and covers of coupon-free material, dyed in soft tones. A strip of carpet runs the length of the barge, between the bunks, wardrobe, and kitchen cabinet, to the stern.

The family has a wireless, and a kerosene lamp is their illumination.

Cooking is by primus. Mrs. White has become an adept at providing a three-course dinner with its assistance.

The primus is also used for boiling on washing day. There are lines at the back of the barge, where small articles are hung to dry, but the bed-linen is pegged out on top of the barge. Ironing is done with a petrol iron.

The ice man delivers ice right to the barge, and just across the

road from the little jetty are the shops.

The barge is shortly to go up on the slips to be fitted with windows and an awning, to add to its comfort.

Moored a little further down the river, at Hamilton, is the 35-footer, Ocean Spray, which for the past 10 years has been the home of Mr. George Fest, a fisherman.

His family has inherited his love of boats, and early this year, his youngest daughter, Mrs. W. Zemek, with her husband, brother, toddler, and 5-months-old baby, travelled from Brisbane to Bowen in a 35-footer.

They encountered cyclones and ran out of water and food, before eventually reaching their destination a month after they had sailed.

In quiet reaches of the river are other "floating homes," some furnished in two-tone colour schemes that would rival the illustrations of a modern home magazine.

**GORDON WHITE switches on the wireless in the "floating home" that he and his parents have on Breakfast Creek.**



